

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Wasatch-Cache
National
Forest

Kamas Ranger District
Kamas, Utah 84036

RECEIVED

Date: January 19, 1994

Steve Shaffer
5033 West 6300 South
Spanish Fork, Ut. 84660

FEB 03 1994

DIVISION OF
FIRE, GEO & MINING

Dear Steve,

We are currently working on a travel plan for the Kamas District. Our goal is to maintain access where needed, but at the same time we want to improve watershed conditions wherever possible. This summer we had several specialists look at Paulsin Basin to help us develop some alternative ways of dealing with the watershed problems there. According to the specialists, the road up the side of Hoyts Mountain is creating the greatest watershed problems we have in the Basin. As you know, we have talked to you for several years about the need to bring this road up to standard. Just this spring we talked about a possible partnership where we would furnish on the ground engineering help, if you would provide equipment to accomplish the needed work. We never got a response back from you on this proposal.

This fiscal year we have received dollars to begin work on the watershed in Paulsin Basin. Rebuilding the road up Hoyts is not a priority for the watershed dollars, but we cannot do any work in the Basin without stabilizing the road system. We have developed several management options for the roads in Paulsin Basin in conjunction with the current travel planning effort. These options recognize the need you and others have to access this area, but other management options reflect the need we have to stabilize the watershed. Currently we are seeking public input on the plan and would like to have a response from you. I will send you a copy of the predecisional environmental analysis report for your review when it is ready for public distribution.

Currently I am leaning toward stabilizing the road by putting in deep trenches to retain water and allowing only ATV access. This would not preclude rebuilding the road to Forest Standards should it be needed for logging or mining.

If we decide to limit vehicular access to ATV's, what does this mean for access to your mining claims? Although the Mining Law guarantees access to unpatented mining claims, such access is not necessarily unlimited or unrestricted. We are obligated to make sure that access is provided with the least impact to surface resources. Thus, you will have continued access but access will be keyed to the scope of the work.

The nature of work on the claims in the last few years has been limited and has required very little in the way of access. For the generally imperceptible work that has been done, vehicular access was not needed except for convenience.

Horses, ATV, or foot would have provided adequate access. Thus if the Paulsin Basin road is closed to all but ATV vehicular traffic, you will need to use ATV or other non-vehicular means of access. If the time comes when you need road access for drilling under an amended operating plan, we will work with you to provide access consistent with the scope of the work you wish to do.

Your current operating plan calls for possible drilling. The plan, however, is incomplete and is really more of a conceptual plan than a working plan. It lacks the specific detail that we will need to evaluate all the impacts associated with a drilling program that requires road access in a sensitive watershed area.

When the time comes that you want to begin drilling, your plan will have to be amended to describe in detail your operating timeframe, the type and amount of disturbance necessary to move the rig in and conduct the drilling, and a description of how you will restore road and drill site disturbance. A copy of the regulations governing operating plans is enclosed.

Whether the road has travel restrictions or not, road reconstruction and rehabilitation will be your responsibility and must be part of the plan. Once we have an adequate plan, we will work with you to ensure that your roadwork will be done to standards which will prevent erosion and provide the basis for sound reclamation. Standards and mitigation measures will come from an Environmental Assessment of your proposal. We will require a bond in the amount calculated to rehabilitate any disturbance caused by drilling and access. The bond is a guarantee that reclamation will be completed.

Be assured that the Forest Service recognizes your right of access but at the same time we are obligated to protect surface resources and make sure that access is consistent with the scope of work. If you have any questions about this or wish to make comment, please feel free to write us or contact myself or Cal Baker at 783-4338.

Sincerely,



MELISSA BLACKWELL
District Ranger

Notice of Intent
to Operate
Steve Shaffer
June 30, 1993

